

**The idea of Walkers are Welcome towns and villages**, first proposed in autumn 2006 is spreading fast. Eight communities [July] in England, Scotland and Wales already have WALKERS ARE WELCOME status and several other towns and villages are actively pursuing the idea.

WALKERS ARE WELCOME communities have to meet six conditions:

- Demonstration of popular support for the concept.
- Formal endorsement of application for WALKERS ARE WELCOME status by local council.
- Action to ensure that rights of way are maintained in good condition.
- Adequate marketing of WALKERS ARE WELCOME status.
- Encouragement of walking using public transport.
- Demonstration of mechanisms in place to maintain WALKERS ARE WELCOME status.

The second national conference will be an opportunity for informal networking and exchange of experiences. The conference will discuss ways of developing the WALKERS ARE WELCOME concept and how it can be promoted nationally.

Find out what other towns and villages like yours are planning to do!

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## Practical information

For details on how to get there and accommodation, please see insert.

**The venue** The Guide Headquarters building is situated behind the Parish Church on Prestatyn High Street (grid ref: SJ 067 828) and the main public car park is accessible from the High Street which is one way to traffic. Proceeding up High Street, look out for the Woolworth store on right, at which point you turn left and after about 100m turn right following signs to car park. The lower car park is a pay zone but the upper one, which is adjacent to Guide Headquarters, is free.

**Saturday events** If you plan to take part in the walks and/or evening meal on Saturday please let us know in advance (see booking form).

**Organisers** The conference is being organised by the Walkers Are Welcome Towns' Network committee in association with Prestatyn & Meliden steering group who are hosting the event. The main contacts are Malcolm Wilkinson (01745 888137) and Andrew Bibby (01422 844026). The organisers e mail address is malcolmray@supanet.com Please mark any e mails "Walkers are Welcome Conference"

**Cost** The delegate fee will be £20. (if you are unable to find this fee from your own funds, please tell us – we do not want to turn you away on grounds of cost)

# Provisional Programme

## Saturday October 25th (for early arrivals)

- 10-30 am** 8 mile walk on Prestatyn Hillside and Offa's Dyke Path
- 2-30 pm** A choice of local led walks
- 7-00 pm** Informal meal together (local restaurant)

## Sunday October 26th

- 9-00 am** Registration opens, tea/coffee
- 9-30 am** Conference opens

Welcome by Cllr. Anne Horobin MBE, Mayor of Prestatyn & Meliden

Introduction and Walkers are Welcome progress report by Malcolm Wilkinson, Chairman, Walkers are Welcome Towns Network.

Using Walkers are Welcome to support and renew rural communities, John Lloyd Jones OBE, Chairman of Countryside Council for Wales.

Maintaining and improving the footpath network, a talk by a representative of the Ramblers Association.

### 10-45 am How we did it

Representatives of Kilsyth and Market Weighton on how their communities became Walkers Are Welcome towns. Followed by general discussion.

### 11-45 am Coffee break

### 12-00 Organising a walking festival

Presented by Alan Garner, Church Stretton and Martin Fearnley, Prestatyn. Followed by general discussion.

### 1-00 pm Buffet lunch

### 1-45 pm Walking for health presentation

Talk by a representative from Natural England on the Walking for Health community initiative.

### 2-30 pm Making the most of Walkers are Welcome status

Presentation and workshops

- Review of the Walkers are Welcome criteria
- Developing and maintaining the brand
- Spreading the word

### 3-30 pm Marketing your town for walkers

### 3-45 pm Election of Walkers are Welcome Towns Network officers and committee.

Decision on future conference venues.

### 4-00 pm Close